

will join the 17 that already have amended their constitutions to ban gay marriage.

The Human Rights Campaign was among numerous gay-rights organizations participating earlier this month in a strategy session aimed at competing effectively in upcoming state ballot campaigns regarding gay marriage.

Solmonese says he hopes Massachusetts will demonstrate to Americans nationwide that its pioneering legalization of same-sex marriage has positive, not negative, results. "Massachusetts is still there, with loving, committed families going on with their lives and experiencing the same rights and responsibilities that all Americans do," he said. "We want to shine a light on what happened in Massachusetts, and tell the American people who we truly are."

He replaces another Massachusetts political activist, former state Sen. Cheryl Jacques, who stepped down as HRC president late last year, citing differences with its board.

Her departure coincided with speculation in the gay media, and elsewhere, about discord among the HRC and some other major gay-rights groups. Solmonese said he has detected no serious rifts since his hiring was announced.

[From the Sun Chronicle, Mar. 18, 2005]

ATTLEBORO HONORED BY ANOTHER ACTIVIST

Attleboro is honored by the appointment of a city native to head the Human Rights Campaign—the nation's largest gay civil rights group—and just days prior to a welcome loosening on the West Coast of the bans on same-sex marriage.

Joe Solmonese, 40, who is gay, brings to his new role a history of activism that began when he became student council vice president while a junior at Attleboro High School in the early 1980s.

He later held an internship at the Statehouse while attending Boston University, then worked on successful reelection campaigns, first for Gov. Michael Dukakis and then U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Newton. He worked on a Senate campaign in Oregon, as well.

Solmonese succeeds former Sen. Cheryl Jacques, who stepped down from her Attleboro-area district to lead the Human Rights Campaign in January 2004. She resigned Nov. 30.

Solmonese, whose mother and sister live in Attleboro, took the helm just days before a trial court judge in California ruled on March 14 against that state's same-sex marriage ban, calling it unconstitutional and comparing it to archaic segregation laws.

It's a ruling that resonates in Massachusetts, which has been in the vanguard of the struggle for equality.

It was the first in the nation, in November 2003, to give gay men and lesbians the same access to marriage licenses as heterosexual couples.

Solmonese' predecessor, Jacques, married her longtime partner in August in Boston, days after she addressed the Democratic National Convention calling for "marriage equality." The couple were wed under Massachusetts' high court historic decision, a decision that was long overdue here and continues to be elsewhere.

Appeals are certain in California. But each step forward brings closer what surely will be the eventual right of gays and lesbians across the country to attain equal footing in the eyes of the law.

We congratulate Joe Solmonese, whose father, Joseph, was principal of Norton High

School for several years until his death, as he sets out across the country to carry his message.

"We seek the same rights and responsibilities as all other Americans," Solmonese said, upon his appointment. "Our job is to educate the American people as to what equality means."

HONORING THE AMERICAN AIR POWER MUSEUM IN FARMINGDALE, NEW YORK

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the American Airpower Museum in Farmingdale, New York to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of American POWs at the end of World War II.

Sixty years ago this spring, over 100,000 American and Allied POWs were liberated by Soviet troops as they swept aside enemy forces in Eastern Europe. This liberation marked the end of forced marches, stinging cold, constant hunger and the everpresent threat of summary execution by a collapsing Nazi regime. Simultaneously, advancing Allied forces also discovered Hitler's death camps and their wretched legacy of inhumanity.

As we observe this anniversary, I am truly proud to have the American Airpower Museum at the Republic Airport in Farmingdale in my congressional district. The museum has established a new permanent tribute to honor those who endured the POW "stalags" and to solemnly mark the liberation of the death camps built by the Third Reich for the purpose of murdering millions of European Jews.

The museum's tribute includes a recreated watch tower and barracks, a detailed diorama of a German "stalag," the names of those New Yorkers who were POWs during World War II and a tribute to American POWs in other conflicts. This will mark the first permanent museum tribute to American POWs in the New York region.

It is vital that we continue to remember the horrors of the Holocaust and pay tribute to both the victims and the brave soldiers who contributed to the liberation of Europe from Nazi rule. I strongly commend the leadership that the American Airpower Museum of Farmingdale has taken on this issue and urge other museums to follow suit.

RECOGNIZING FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL'S NAMING TO THE GRAMMY SIGNATURE SCHOOL GOLD LIST

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Flower Mound High School, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for its recognition on the Gold List of Grammy Signature Schools.

I congratulate Flower Mound High School's performing arts department, under the leadership of Danna Rothlisberger, Lewisville ISD director of performing arts, and Mark Rohwer, chair of the performing arts department, for their outstanding achievement. Flower Mound High School was only one of seven schools in the nation promoted to the Gold List from their original recognition as a Grammy Signature School.

Flower Mound High School received \$7,000 cash reward for its performing arts department as part of their promotion. Mr. Rohwer has promised to spend a portion of the money to hiring composers to write specific pieces for the band, orchestra and choir, and to buy new equipment.

Flower Mound High School's performing arts department is a stellar example from which Texas schools should model their performing arts departments. Their commitment to educating students through the arts is to be admired and replicated.

I am proud of the education system in Texas; especially our involved parents and teachers at Flower Mound High School who commit their lives and time to fostering growth in their students.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM "SLIM" SOMERVELL

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Willis "Slim" Somervell, who has dedicated his life to God, his family, and the United States of America.

Slim has said, "You need to be true to yourself and you need to have beliefs and a value system. Without those, what are we?" These are wise words. As I learned about the life of service that Mr. Somervell has led, I am inspired by his beliefs and his values.

Service to America is one value Slim holds dear. He entered the United States Navy in 1941. In 1944, Slim was commissioned as a gunnery and navigation officer for the USS *Landing Ship Medium* 142.

In addition to having command of the *Landing Ship Medium*, he also commanded *Patrol Craft* 1262, which conducted air and sea rescues in the Caribbean. He was also Executive Officer of the *Patrol Craft Escort* 877.

Slim worked in the Fleet Weather Center in Washington, DC and conducted Navy weather research in Norfolk, Virginia. He served on the *Forrestal*, CVA-59. He was also the staff meteorologist for the commander of the U.S. Second Fleet, later for the Western Pacific 7th Fleet and ultimately commanded the Navy Research Facility in Norfolk, Virginia.

Devotion to family is another value that is important to Slim. While on assignment in Monterey, California, he met his wife Mary. They married in 1949 in Kerrville, Texas. They had five children, four girls and one boy. Slim and Mary are now grandparents of thirteen.

Slim will often tell you, "What more can a person ask for than children and grandchildren who turn out to be good citizens." As you can tell, Slim is quite proud of his family.

After 30 years of faithful service to our country, Slim retired. But this did not slow him down. Slim took a job with the Bureau of Reclamation in their cloud seeding program. Later, Slim worked for the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University. Slim spent 15 years in that department as a manager, researcher and also a teacher.

In addition to service to family and service to our country, Slim also strongly believes in service to God. Slim and Mary attend Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. There, Slim serves as a lector and a communion minister.

Slim has been truly blessed with a great career and a great family. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Somervell. May God continue to bless the Somervells for years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MAE CATHERINE GREENE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Mae Catherine Greene in recognition for her dedication to her community.

Mae Catherine Greene fondly known as "Cat" by family and close friends is almost a life long resident of the east New York community of which she has been an integral and staunchly loyal advocate. She was born in Chadbourn, NC in March of 1957, the ninth of ten children of a proud and independent working mother.

Mae obtained her education in the neighborhood she so greatly loves and admires. She attended P.S. 149, I.S. 292 and William H. Maxwell High School in east New York. Mae, who has been married for almost 27 years to her childhood sweetheart, Richard Greene, is the proud mother of six children who still live in east New York as well.

Having six children in the public school system and being a concerned, loving and dedicated parent, Mae took a strong interest in the neighborhood's public school system. She was very involved and an active presence in many different capacities. She served as President and Secretary on Community Board 19 and President of the P.T.A. at P.S. 213, I.S. 171 and I.S. 292. Additionally, she was Chapter 1 Chairperson for the District for both P.S. 213 and I.S. 171 as well as P.A.C. President for the Board for two day care centers, Georgia-Livonia and Einstein in East NY.

Mae is not only an advocate for education, but she is also very involved in community and politically based issues and activities. She has been a longtime advocate for senior citizen, immigrant and housing rights. Mae has served as Secretary to the Tenants' Advisory Board and Property Manager at Elva McZeal Housing Development and as a Community Advisor at Beekman Houses in the Bronx, NY. She also set up a parents' rights advocacy for immigrant parents at P.S. 213, was a community liaison for Health Plus, and an advocate for the senior citizens at Elva McZeal Houses.

Mr. Speaker, Mae Catherine Greene has strengthened her community through her nu-

merous volunteer efforts with the PTA, the Community Board, and local housing associations. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

HONORING MSGT ROBERT F. GREEN, JR.

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of MSGT Robert F. Green. Master Sergeant Green, a resident of Ontario, New York is retiring from the United States Air Force after years of dedicated service.

His retirement allows for reflection on what can only be considered a sterling career. He has admirably served his country without question or reservation. His fellow soldiers will attest that Master Sergeant Green sets the standard regarding attributes such as honor, respect, duty and country.

On behalf of my colleagues, and myself, I extend my gratitude, great appreciation and well wishes for prosperous retirement years. Thank you for your service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. ANNE DORA MOORE HALL

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like honor the life of Mrs. Anne Dora Moore Hall, 4 passed away on March 16, 2005. Mrs. Hall was born in Cherokee County, Texas to Miles Cleveland and Madge Edwards Moore. She lived most of her life in Dallas and had a long, successful career as an insurance executive.

A mother to two children, Robert and Steven, and wife to Bergen Hall, Mrs. Hall was also very active in her community. She was an officer in the Pierce Brooks Gospel Foundation, served on the Texas Safety Council, and worked with the Crippled Children's Foundation of America. She was also engaged in politics as a longtime member of the White Rock Women's Republican Club, the Public Affairs Luncheon Club, and working at her local precinct during elections.

As a mother, a wife, a businesswoman, and a community leader, Mrs. Anne Dora Moore Hall's life has embodied the values of family, community, and hard work that lie at the core of American society. As her representative in Congress, it is my distinct pleasure to honor her today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

JEFF JACOBY SHOWS INTEGRITY ON TORTURE ISSUE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the saddest aspects of our current political dialogue is that partisanship has extended into the intellectual sphere. That is, I very much agree that people should pick one party or the other as being more representative of their views than the alternative and generally support that party. That is legitimate partisanship. Excessive partisanship comes when people are never willing to admit that "their side" ever makes mistakes, or that the "other side" ever has any virtues.

It is for this reason, as well as the substance of his well-reasoned articles, that I was very gratified to read Boston Globe Columnist Jeff Jacoby's two-part series on torture. Mr. Jacoby is a strong, outspoken conservative who supports the war in Iraq. But unlike many, he does not let his general ideological position in this set of issues make him an apologist for specific actions which go counter to the very moral values that the war in Iraq is supposed to be vindicating.

In a forceful two-part series in the Boston Globe, Mr. Jacoby makes a principled, thoughtful, fact-based case against the use of torture by Americans, even in the service of our entirely justified fight against terrorism.

Mr. Jacoby puts it eloquently in his first article: "Better intelligence means more lives saved, more atrocities prevented and a more likely victory in the war against radical Islamist fascism. Those are crucial ends and they justify tough means. But they don't justify means that betray core American values. Interrogation techniques that flirt with torture, to say nothing of those that end in death, cross the moral line that separates us from the enemy we are trying to defeat."

In his second article, Mr. Jacoby argues that the case against torture is not only a moral one but also a pragmatic one, noting, among other things, "torture is never limited to just the guilty."

Mr. Speaker, I salute Jeff Jacoby both for the force of his arguments and for the intellectual integrity he has shown in making them. No issue confronting our Nation is more important than how we deal with this set of questions and I therefore ask that Mr. Jacoby's very significant contribution be printed here.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 17, 2005]

WHERE'S THE OUTRAGE ON TORTURE?

(By Jeff Jacoby)

In August 2003, when he was commander of the military base at Guantanamo Bay, Major General Geoffrey Miller visited Baghdad with some advice for US interrogators at Abu Ghraib prison. As Brigadier General Janis Karpinski, the military police commander in Iraq, later recalled it, Miller's bottom line was blunt: Abu Ghraib should be "Gitmo-ized." Iraqi detainees should be exposed to the same aggressive techniques being used to extract information from prisoners in Guantanamo.

"You have to have full control," Karpinski quoted Miller as saying. There can be "no